



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

(801) 538-5340 telephone

(801) 359-3940 fax

(801) 538-7223 TTY

[www.nr.utah.gov](http://www.nr.utah.gov)

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

September 10, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, American Gilsonite Company, Bonanza Mine, M/047/010, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 15, 2003

Time of Inspection: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Conditions: Clear, 90's

Participants: Keith Taylor, American Gilsonite; Doug Jensen and Paul Baker, DOGM

## **Purpose of Inspection:**

The operator has been using a new method to cap Gilsonite shafts, so our purpose was to see whether we thought this method would be acceptable.

## **Observations:**

The capping method the operator is trying includes digging around the edge of the shaft down to bedrock, building forms, and pouring concrete footers. The footers are reinforced and are about eighteen inches thick. The cap is also reinforced and is about ten inches thick. The site where the operator has poured the footers is shown in Photo 1.

We visited about three other sites where the operator has tried placing the caps on the surface or on concrete with no foundation extending to bedrock. The result has been animals burrowing under the concrete (Photos 2 and 4) or the ground under the concrete becoming otherwise unstable (Photo 3).

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### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

All the land managers involved with this mine need to see the method the operator has begun using and decide whether it should be used as a standard closure method or whether some modifications are needed.

Some degree of repair, up to complete reconstruction, needs to be done at all the sites except the first site we visited (I-16) where the operator has poured footers. Mr. Jensen and I agreed the buried footers for the headframe or the bin could stay at I-16.

At LE-8, the existing concrete could be used as forms for the new footers. The caps at the other sites, including LE-10 and one of the other Little Emma shafts, cannot be considered stable and need to be redone.

PBB:jb

cc: Earl White, AGC  
Stan Perkes, BLM

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## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

M/047/010, Bonanza Mines, American Gilsonite

Inspection Dated: August 15, 2003; Report Dated: September 10, 2003

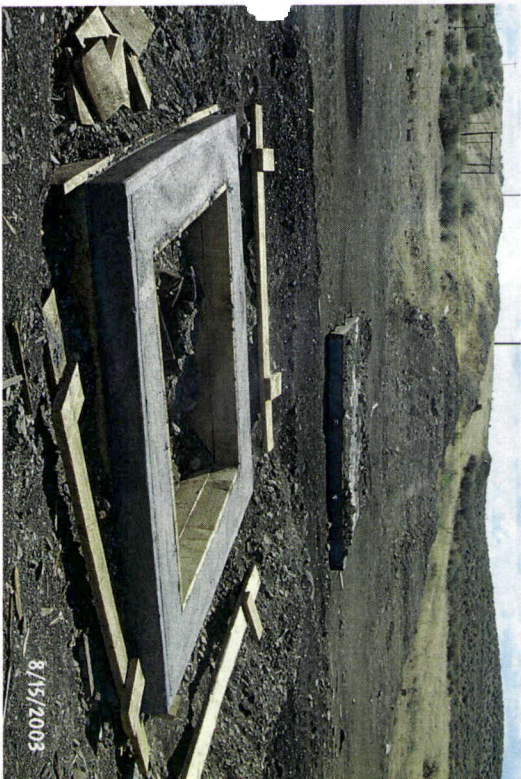


Photo 1. Footers at the I-16 shaft.

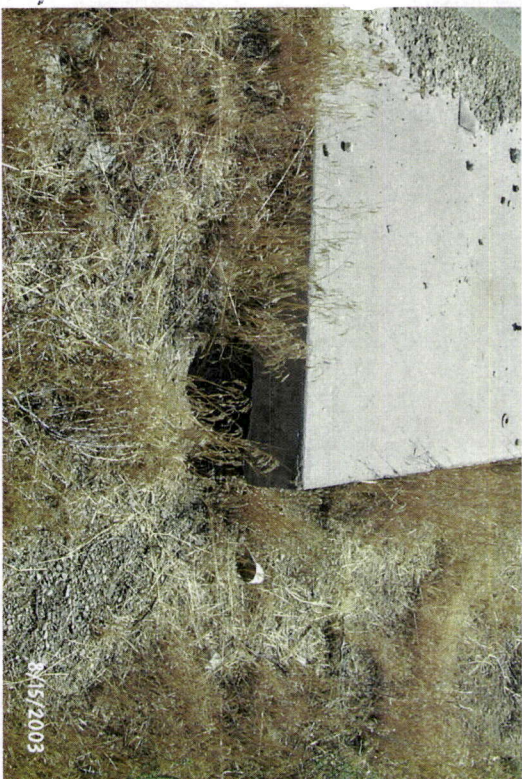


Photo 2. Burrow under a concrete slab at one of the Little Emma sites.



Photo 3. Caps placed basically on the ground at LE-10. Note how irregular they are.



Photo 4. Cap at LE 8. Note the burrow.